

Veterans workshop held

The reemployment rights of veterans and identifying and dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome were the topics of a recent workshop sponsored by WorkOne Terre Haute for staff from central and southern Indiana.

"The session was well received and it was suggested that we consider other topics for future workshops," said Tim Kelley, program director. "Possible future topics may cover tax abatement statutes, federal contractors and drug and alcohol treatment resources.

Terre Haute DWD staff organized the workshop in response to the large number of National Guard and Reserve personnel from southwest and western Indiana who have been called up during the Iraq war. Many of these men and women are returning to the area and staff felt that refresher training was essential in preparing to serve the returning veterans.

Employment Trends

January Unemployment Rate

Indiana's non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January was 5.6 percent. This is seven-tenths of a percentage point below the national rate of 6.3 percent.

2,986,400 million Hoosiers were employed during January.

Indiana's January unemployment rate was lower than Michigan, 7.1 percent; Ohio, 7.0 percent; Illinois, 6.9 percent; and Kentucky at 6.1 percent.

February Unemployment Insurance Stats

Number of UI Claims Filed:

Week of 2-7-04	88,508
Week of 2-14-04	86,517
Week of 2-21-04	82,236
Week of 2-28-04	81,914

Indiana@Work

Indiana@Work builds on the success of Energize Indiana by extending worker assessments and job profiling for Hoosier workers and employers statewide, while beginning to match workers with job opportunities based upon their personal set of career skills.

INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT



Department of Workforce Development

Indiana Government Center South

10 N. Senate Avenue

Indianapolis, IN 46204-2277

Phone: 317/232-7670

FAX: 317/233-4793

TDD: 317/232-7560

www.workforce.IN.gov

Joseph E. Kernan, Governor

Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Developments

HOOSIER WORKERS & LIFELONG LEARNING ONLINE NEWS

Breaking News

Rapid Response team kicks into gear for Thomson closing

As the closing of Thomson's Marion facility was announced, DWD's Rapid Response team took immediate action. The day of the announcement the team was already talking to plant and city officials and making plans to assist the 990 workers with a variety of services. DWD has also provided \$200,000 in immediate assistance to the community.

The Rapid Response team has been working with Thomson employees for the past year following an earlier layoff. In addition to providing employees with unemployment benefits, re-employment services and training, DWD worked with the local union to apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA). TAA offers additional benefits to workers whose jobs have been lost due to foreign competition or increased imports.

"Since this location has already been certified as being TAA eligible, all the workers will be covered by the program," said DWD commissioner Alan Degner. "This will give them access to expanded services right away."

Services for workers under the TAA program include training or education to find suitable employment as quickly as possible, additional income support over and above regular unemployment benefits while in training, health insurance coverage assistance, job relocation and job search allowances.

Career Majors Institute held

The fourth Career Majors Institute was held recently in downtown Indianapolis. The Institute concept combines professional development and concentrated planning time to help school/consortium teams move forward faster and more effectively in their school improvement plans. The two-day event focused on the development of strategic action plans to support a goal. The goal, in this case, was to improve education through the implementation of Career Majors.

There are five main components to the Institute. They include teams, trained facilitators, content faculty, a tangible "take home" action plan and an evaluation/follow-up. Ben Davis High School, Central Nine Career Center, Century Career Center, Heritage Jr./Sr. High School, Jefferson High School, Leo Jr./Sr. High School, Loogootee Community Schools, Lowell High School, New Castle Area vocational School, Northwest High School, Owen Valley High School, Portage High School and Silver Creek High School sent teams to the Institute.

Kernan awards grants to the Southern Seven and Shawnee Trace WIBs

Gov. Joe Kernan, through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, awarded \$209,845 to the Southern Seven Workforce Investment Board and \$372,600 to the Shawnee Trace Workforce Investment Board from the agency's "Energizing Indiana's Workforce" grant funds.

The Southern Seven WIB, representing Clark, Crawford, Floyd, Harrison, Orange, Scott and Washington counties, will use its grant to increase workforce development and training opportunities throughout the region. They will partner with Ivy Tech State College to develop a career certificate program in logistics and high tech distribution.

The Shawnee Trace Workforce Investment Board representing Daviess, Dubois, Gibson, Greene, Knox, Lawrence, Martin, Pike and Sullivan counties will use the grant to establish community-based centers to assess the skills of area workers and offer training in skills needed to work in the life sciences, advanced manufacturing, high-tech distribution and information technology industries.